

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Xudong Zhu  
U.S. Serial No.: 10/517,091  
International Application No.: PCT/CN2004/000029  
International Filing Date: January 9, 2004  
For: CASTING SAND HEATING APPARATUS  
Date: February 1, 2005

**Mail Stop PCT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, PTO FORM-1449s, AND SIX FOREIGN CITED REFERENCES** were mailed to the Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, with sufficient first-class postage, no special handling, on February 1, 2005, before 5:00 PM, thereby ensuring that such document(s) will be in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service by the close of business this day.

Respectfully submitted,

HUDAK, SHUNK & FARINE CO. LPA

  
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Attorney Docket No.: CNIP-A-PCT-US

Enclosures: Return Postcard  
Certificate of Mailing  
Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449s,  
Copies of Six Foreign References

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

This invention relates to a heating apparatus for the foundry sand. This heating apparatus includes a furnace body, an inlet of sand, a dust and fume extraction port, a furnace cavity, and an outlet of sand. The inlet of sand is provided in the upper portion of the furnace body, a burner port is provided in the lower portion of the furnace body, a heat exchanger is provided in the furnace cavity of the middle of the furnace body. The apparatus can be used for the heating or baking of the new sand and used sand.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99, applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, required copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application:

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS		
PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
55-73442	June 3, 1980	JP
55-86645	June 30, 1980	JP
2162314Y	April 20, 1994	CN
7-328741	December 19, 1995	JP
11-285779	October 19, 1999	JP
2000-61578	February 29, 2000	JP

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) only the foreign and non-patent documents are required for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of its materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket No.: CNIP-A-PCT-US

<b>Form PTO-1449</b> U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office  <b>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)			Atty. Docket No.: CNIP-A-PCT-US		Serial No.: 10/517,091		
			Applicant: Xudong Zhu				
			Filing Date:				
					Group:		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing date if appropriate
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	AL	55-73442	June 3, 1980	JP			X
	AM	55-86645	June 30, 1980	JP			X (abstract)
	AN	2162314Y	April 20, 1994	CN			X
	AO	7-328741	December 19, 1995	JP			X
	AP	11-285779	October 19, 1999	JP			X

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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